

Remarks/Arguments:

Applicants acknowledge, with thanks, the courtesy extended to Applicants' representatives by the Examiner during the telephone interview of January 7, 2008. During the interview, the Examiner indicated that the amendment distinguished over the prior art of record. The Examiner also indicated that the finality of the rejection would be withdrawn and a further search would be conducted, but that a Request for Continued Examination would not be required.

Claims 1-29 are pending in the above-identified application. Claims 4-28 have been withdrawn from consideration. Claim 30 has been cancelled.

Claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by Morita et al. Claim 1 is amended to include the features of claim 30 and to recite,

... wherein at least one of a plurality of **spherically shaped** recesses is formed on a surface of at least one of the first contact section and the second contact section ...(Emphasis added).

The refrigerant compressor in Applicants' exemplary embodiment includes a piston 115 and bore 113. Oil 103 is drawn in between the piston 115 and bore 113 when piston 115 slides. (Page 13, lines 10-14). **Spherical** recesses 123 are positioned, for example, on the piston 115. (Page 13, lines 10-11 and lines 25-26). The **spherical shape** allows the space between the sliding sections (contact sections) to remain constant as they move in different directions. (Page 14, lines 6-8).

Morita et al. does not disclose or suggest "...**spherically shaped** recesses," as recited in claim 1. Morita et al. discloses a cylinder 4 (first contact section), a piston 5 (second contact section) and a plurality of **triangular shaped** recesses 334(a) formed on a surface of piston 5. (Para. [0221] and Fig. 18).

The Office Action set forth "absent evidence that a particular shape is significant, a change in shape does not patentably distinguish over the prior art..." (Office Action, page 3, line 23 to page 4, line 1). The specification clearly describes, however, that a recess having a **spherical shape is significant**. Applicants' claimed features of "...**spherically shaped** recesses" are advantageous over the prior art because spherical recesses have a friction coefficient that is lower than the friction coefficient of angular recesses and spherical recesses

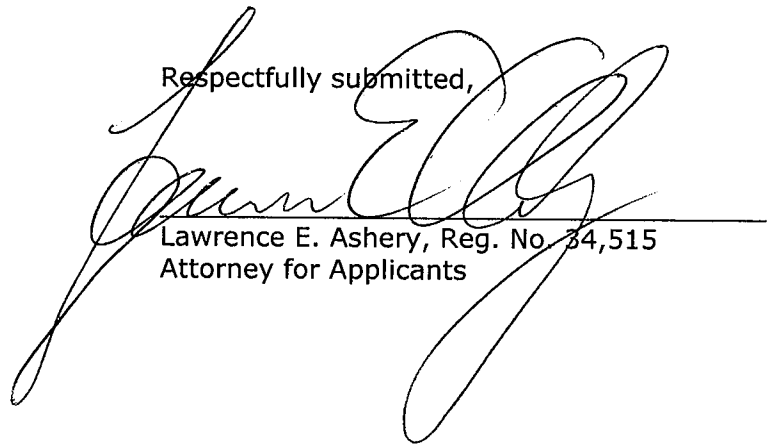
have a greater volume than a polygonal pyramid (triangular recesses). (Page 13, line 25 to page 14, line 10).

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is allowable over the art of record. Claims 2 and 3 depend from claim 1. Accordingly, claims 2 and 3 are likewise allowable over the art of record.

Claims 29 and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being obvious in view of Morita et al. The rejection of claim 30 is moot due to the cancellation of claim 30. Claim 29 is allowable because it depends from allowable claim 1.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that this Application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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